

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington and Neuwirth

Also present were: Chief Paul Hammick, Chief Robert Farmer, Pat Braun, Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilors Hypolite and Merritt, Chief William Riley

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

POLICE

The police department remains on budget and expenditures are within normal levels. Overtime figures are down in the patrol division.

Personnel Updates

Lieutenant Mark Samsel is scheduled to retire on February 21, 2014. Chief Hammick announced that Officer Donald Moore will retire from the department on March 7, 2014.

Chief Hammick has hired two staff, Officer Courtney Benitez on January 27, 2014. As a new police recruit, Officer Benitez will begin the police academy for training on March 21, 2014. In addition, Ms. Wendy Gorman was hired on February 3, 2014 as a part time Clerk Typist.

The four new officers are progressing in their respective Field Training programs.

The department is conducting background checks for several potential candidates. There is one available vacancy in the upcoming police academy class.

Councilor Neuwirth inquired about the notification for retirement requests. Chief Hammick stated that there is no actual timeframe established with town personnel rules. However, departmental personnel do give ample notice, which is sufficient to Administration.

Crime

- Crime is down 9% for the month of January 2014.
- There was a 43% increase for calls for service. Most of these calls were related to motor vehicle assist due to consistent inclement weather.
- Motor Vehicle accidents have increased to 15% this year in traffic citations and the enforcement activity between Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road.
- In January 2014, there was 1 citizen complaint received in the department. This complaint is remains open and active.

Community Services

There was a Hostility Intruder Active Shooting Training held in Council Chambers for the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce on January 20, 2014. The department received positive feedback and was contacted by several businesses to conduct this training on a smaller scale for their employees.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief William Riley reported that recruiting efforts are underway for firefighter volunteers. The department has increased their volunteer pool by five over the last few months. Three of the five volunteers are certified with Firefighter I qualifications and two are in classes at headquarters.

The department continues to utilize various marketing strategies to attract new volunteers. Currently, the department has received five new applications and will begin interviews over the next several weeks.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Robert Farmer gave a brief report on the Blue Hills Fire District. Chief Farmer reported that the department has received 80 calls for service this year. The amount of calls received exceeds the normal average in comparison to previous years.

The Sav-Mor Laundromat had a fire on February 10, 2014. This is the fifth fire at this site in the last 10 months. The building official and fire department closed the building for use until duct and venting cleaning has been completed.

There were two other structure fires over the past weekend, February 8th, 2014. Both incidents were kitchen fires located on Boothbay Street and Beatrice Avenue.

On Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. the department will sponsor a Community Day for town residents. The department will display their fire equipment, Department of Energy and Environmental trailer, Hartford Fire Department smoke trailer and demonstrations by various other town emergency services.

On March 5th – 6th, 2014, Chief Farmer and two other staff members will attend the New York Fire Academy Annual Symposium. The symposium will focus on terrorism, fires in large structures and high rise fires.

EMS

- Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance had two volunteers joined last month. Sergeant Ellen White will temporarily replace Officer Donald Moore assignment upon his retirement as the BVA coordinator.
- The EMS Committee on January 22, 2014 to discuss EMT classes. In September 2013, five to ten volunteers were scheduled to test. On January 2014, 30 volunteers initially signed up and approximately 20 class participants remain.
- Three CPR classes were offered in 2013.
- The committee continues to work on statistics for the fourth quarter and will report results at the next scheduled Public Safety subcommittee meeting.
- The Primary Service Area was assigned to the State of Connecticut Taskforce is working on changes. Several recommendations and suggestions have been to the State legislature. Pat Braun forwarded the report of suggested changes to Chief Hammick from the State of Connecticut for review.

BVA Fund

The BVA fund is doing very well, better than last year. Approximately, \$150,000 is currently in the fund and \$20,000 has been reserved for educational support. The BVA Fund continues to raise funds for capital equipment, i.e. ambulance, in addition to supporting the overall mission of the BVA.

The FY 14/15 Budget will be available for review in March 2014. There may be a possible reduction in EMS due to vehicle maintenance in excess appropriation of \$10,000 reallocated to the Department of Public Works. In addition, a reduction may be made in computers and office furniture as well.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.